

Appl. No. 09/655,229
Response Dated October 17, 2006
Reply to Office Action dated July 20, 2006,

REMARKS

In view of the following remarks, the Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the present application.

Objections and Rejections

The Office Action dated July 20, 2006:

1. declares that claims 1-27 are allowable; and
2. finally rejects claims 28 and 29 under 35 U.S.C. § 101 for double patenting because claims 28 and 29 claim the same invention as claims 40 and 41 of prior U.S. Patent No. 7,020,282.

Description of Amendments

This response cancels from page 20 an extraneous text which does not belong in the patent application.

This response to the July 20th Office Action also cancels dependent claim 29, and incorporates into independent claim 28 subject matter appearing:

1. in dependent claim 29; and
2. and in the patent application as originally filed beginning in line 19 on page 21 and continuing to line 3 on page 22.

Accordingly, the preceding amendment of independent claim 29 introduces no new matter into this patent application.

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Argument

Because amended independent claim 29 set forth above:

1. is not identical to independent claim 40 of U. S. Patent No. 7,020,282; and
2. does not encompass the same subject matter as either claim 40 or 41 in that patent;

Applicant respectfully submits that amended independent claim 29 traverses the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 101 for double patenting that appears in the July 20, 2006, Office Action.

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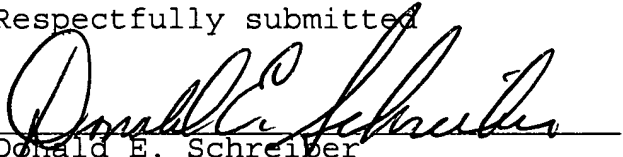
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Conclusion

Because rejected dependent claim 29 has been canceled, and independent claim 28 amended to traverse rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 101 for double patenting, Applicant respectfully:

1. submits that claims 1-28 now pending in this patent application are all allowable; and
2. requests that this patent application pass promptly to issue.

Respectfully submitted



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